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Viewing cable 05BOGOTA1604, PLAN COLOMBIA IMPLEMENTATION ROUND-UP, JANUARY,

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the <u>structure of a cable</u> as well as how to <u>discuss them</u> with others. See also the <u>FAOs</u>

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables (browse by origin to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this WikiSource article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at theparagraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#05BOGOTA1604**.

```
Reference ID
                     Created
                                      Released
                                                   Classification
                                                                     Origin
<u>05BOGOTA1604</u> <u>2005-02-18 19:48 2011-08-30 01:44 SECRET</u>
                                                                Embassy Bogota
Appears in these articles:
http://www.semana.com/wikileaks/Seccion/168.aspx
This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.
id: 27360
date: 2/18/2005 19:48 refid: 05BOGOTA1604
origin: Embassy Bogota
classification: SECRET
destination:
This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.
----- header ends -----
S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 04 BOGOTA 001604
SIPDIS
E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/10/2014
TAGS: PREL PGOV SNAR MASS PREF EAID KJUS CO
SUBJECT: PLAN COLOMBIA IMPLEMENTATION ROUND-UP, JANUARY,
Classified By: Ambassador William B. Wood for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).
    (U) The following is an update of Plan Colombia-related
activities reported during January, 2005.
DOJ/ICITAP
	extbf{1}2. (U) From January 25-28, the DOJ International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP) and U.S.
Secret Service (USSS) presented a Financial Crimes Electronic
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DOJ/JSRP

cameras.

Evidence Collection Seminar in Bogota. Twenty-five Colombian law enforcement and intelligence personnel received training in the collection and preservation of digital evidence seized from electronic devices such as computers, PDAs, and digital

to outfit five computer laboratories.

ICITAP and USSS donated equipment to these agencies

13. (U) In January, Colombia began to implement a new Criminal Procedure Code, which introduces an accusatory criminal justice system. The Code will be implemented gradually, with the judicial districts of Armenia, Bogota, Manizales and Pereira introducing the code in 2005. The initial impressions and media coverage of operations under the new Code have been very positive (see para. 11 regarding USG assistance).

MILGROUP

- 14. (C) On January 4, ongoing problems with the Military Penal Justice (MPJ) system moved into the public eye when the leading daily "El Tiempo" reported that the President's legal officer was considering annexing Military Justice to the Prosecutor General's office. Emboffs from Political, MILGROUP and DAO have met weekly to discuss plans for immediate and long-term reform of the Military Penal Justice (MPJ), with the Office of the SOUTHCOM Judge's Advocate (SCSJA), the MILGROUP Legal Liaison Officer (LNO), and MPJ Director Brigadier General (BG) Luis Fernando Puentes Torres Girlado. Although it looks like the report was more of a threat than a reality, MPJ Puentes has taken steps toward reform and asked for advice on the best way to transfer court procedures to an accusatorial system, create an investigative laboratory, and establish an administrative process for in-service misdemeanors.
- 15. (C) Embassy plans to assist the COLMIL over the next year to implement a plan to reform military justice system adjudications, and to advise COLMIL officials during the legislative consideration process. The new system must have effective mechanisms for fact-finding and investigations, prosecution of cases, and swift decision-making and sentencing by judges. BG Puentes acknowledged that the current MPJ system is not designed to do these things well, and is straining under the weight of backlogged cases. He also concurred that if he does not change the system soon, COLMIL could be forced to move some or all of MPJ under the purview of the GOC civilian legal structure. BG Puentes developed a six-point plan to improve the MPJ system. The LNO's highest priority is now to advise and assist BG Puentes and his staff on this plan. MILGROUP has also requested that SCSJA advise and assist COLMIL to develop strategies to improve these core legal justice competencies. section has offered suggestions on improving the communication mechanisms, especially for military cases involving civilians' human rights. MILGROUP is working with DOJ representatives in the Embassy who are currently assisting the GOC with reform of the civilian legal system. MILGROUP and SCSJA began analyzing the COLMIL legal reform plan as the first step in this process.
- 16. (C) In January, Admiral Luis Fernando Yance Villamil, Colombian Marines (COLMAR) Commandant, held a conference of all Brigade and Battalion Commanders (Cdrs) in Bogota. Admiral Mauricio Soto Gomez, Colombian Navy (COLNAV) Commandant, opened the event with his vision for the future of the COLMAR. Adm Yance stressed the value of the non-commissioned officers (NCOs) and sergeant majors (SgtMajs). During the conference the SgtMaj of the COLMAR sat next to Yance and participated as a key leader in the event. Yance directed that Battalion and Brigade Cdrs will turn over as much as possible of the day-to-day running of the battalion to the SgtMaj so that they can focus on operations and training. Admirals Soto and Yance made the following comments and directives:
- -- Each Battalion or Brigade will use a new database to inventory every piece of equipment that they own and justify how they acquired the items. This will become the baseline to reduce corruption and illegal procurement or sales practices.
- $\mbox{--}\mbox{ Cdrs}$ must stop skimming funds from the food budget to purchase other items for the base.
- -- A new personnel program will target promotion of the best conscripts through the ranks of professional, non-commissioned officer (NCO), and officer.
- -- Adm Yance has received a petition from about 40 Army officers wishing to switch to the COLMAR.
- -- The COLMAR goal for recruitment is to increase from 20,100 to 23,000 Marines by the end of CY05.
- -- Unit cdrs must take responsibility for training. With the help of the Traditional Commander Activity (TCA) training event that the U.S. Naval Mission (NAVMIS) is conducting, a COLMAR-wide training management program will be established.
- -- Any officer who is overweight and out of shape past July

- -- The Second Brigade will be transformed to a Riverine Brigade. Adm Yance discussed implications, outlined the way ahead, and discussed the plan to place new outposts on the remaining rivers on Colombia's borders with Brazil and Venezuela.
- -- Cdrs must maintain a log of all events and begin to create After Action Reports to be compiled at the Covenas Doctrine Division (CDD), a planning think-tank for COLMIL. The CDD will analyze lessons learned and create new tactics and procedures to counter FARC/AUC actions as they evolve. The COLMAR continues its progressive transformation and is setting the standard for change in the COLMIL.
- ¶7. (S) On January 8-10 Major General (MG) Carlos Alberto Fracica Naranja, Commander of Joint Task Force Omega (JTF-O), conducted a commander's conference at Larandia, the first meeting to bring the new JTF-O staff and commanders together since the December turnover of personnel. While praising MG Reinaldo Castellanos Trujillo's prior efforts, Fracica made it clear the operation has entered a new phase in which he believes the FARC will attempt to avoid contact or combat in order to reorganize, resupply and reconstitute until they have rebuilt the combat power to conduct offensive operations. He emphasized that neutralizing the FARC infrastructure is the key to success for the national campaign and that his subordinate commanders must be more aggressive in their execution of operations. At the tactical level, he emphasized the need for small unit (platoon and below), special and integrated air. He also said psychological operations and civil affairs should be integrated into all tactical operations. He stated the JTF's strategic objectives are to gain territorial control, gain support of the local populace, block FARC mobility corridors, kill or capture a secretariat-level high value target (HVT), and force demobilization of the FARC in the JTF area of operations.

NAS

18. (U) In January, The Embassy coordinated the eleventh annual Aerial Eradication Verification process. The three-week verification mission collected soil and water samples from hundreds of locations where aerial spraying had been conducted in recent months. The mission was conducted by USDA and GOC scientists, with assistance from INL, NAS Bogota, the Colombian National Police, other GOC officials, and OAS CICAD observers. The mission's objective was to determine the environmental effects, if any, of our aerial spraying program, as required by both U.S. and GOC law. In the course of collecting field samples the evaluators also made observations regarding replanting, and other measures undertaken by narcoterrorists to counter eradication activities.

RSO

- 19. (U) Anti-Kidnapping Program (AKI): Four instructors and the Acting Program Manager arrived on January 19 in preparation for the start of the next six-week Crisis Response Training (CRT) at the Anti-Terrorism Assistance Program (ATA) CRT training facility at the Colombian National Police (CNP) tactical training base in Sibate. The program has still not received the equipment and weapons for the previous four courses trained. Once they arrive, a refresher course for the trained units will be conducted.
- 110. (U) VIP Personal Protection Training Program: The MOD's dignitary protection team will graduate from a two-week training course on January 21. The entire personal protection team of the MOD has now been trained.

USAID

111. (U) On January 12, Vice President Francisco Santos, USAID/Colombia Director Michael Deal, and U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Director John Shaw visited the Phytosanitary Center of Excellence (CEF) in Bogota. As directed by Santos, the Ministry of Agriculture established a committee to develop a strategy to promote the export of Colombian fruits and vegetables to the U.S., to take advantage of the CEF protocols, and to achieve USD \$1 billion in exports over the next ten years. The CEF promotes the export of fresh agricultural products to the U.S. by conducting pest risk analyses and utilizing geographic information systems for plant pest surveillance. Since July 2002, USAID has contributed a total of USD \$1 million to organize, equip, and staff the CEF in Bogota. USDA/APHIS is providing the

technical assistance for this project.

- 112. (U) To prepare Colombia for the transition to an oral, accusatorial justice system -- officially rolled out on January 1 -- USAID designed and constructed 35 specialized oral courtrooms. The courtrooms are furnished and equipped for public hearings and trials. USAID has also trained in oral procedures (required by the new system) to 123 law professors and 1,349 criminal justice system operators, including public defenders, inspectors and judges. Only one month after being implemented in jurisdictions in Bogota, Manizales, Pereira and Armenia, statistics show that:
- -- police are making fewer frivolous arrests;
- -- scarce resources of courtrooms, prosecutors and public defenders are being focused on more serious crimes;
- -- 66 percent of all cases arraigned in the first month of operation were plea bargained and therefore will not require costly and time-consuming trials; and
- -- cases that once took years to be processed are now being adjudicated in days.
- 113. (U) In January, USAID and Colombian clothing manufacturer DELMYP started the implementation of a training and job placement program. The program will benefit 100 displaced and vulnerable people from the municipality of Soacha, Cundinamarca (just south of the city of Bogota), with full-time employment and health benefits. DELMYP, a company with a long history in textiles and clothing production, will be able to guarantee a minimum job placement rate of 90 percent. To date, USAID's internally displaced persons (IDPs) program has assisted roughly 2.2 million IDPs with medium— and long-term assistance.
- 114. (U) Under its Human Rights Program, USAID signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for up to USD \$1 million with the Inspector General's (IG's) Office. The MOU aims to strengthen the IG's preventive and disciplinary functions with activities such as expansion of the IG's human rights violations tracking system and oversight of the demobilization and reincorporation process.